

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19644 170834Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 040747 /20  
R 170704Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2167  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EXDIS

TEL AVIV FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: APER, UR, US, PINS  
SUBJECT: MFA ALLEGATIONS ABOUT ISABEL KULSKI

1. DURING CALL ON MFA USA DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR FEDOSEYEV DEC. 15 IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER MATTERS, FEDOSEYEV USED OCCASION TO RAISE QUESTION OF ALLEGED "UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOR" BY ISABEL KULSKI (INR) DURING HER RECENT VISIT TO USSR. ACCORDING TO FEDOSEYEV, MRS. KULSKI, WHILE ARRANGING FOR TICKET FOR FLIGHT FROM TBILISI TO YEREVAN, REFUSED TO PRESENT HER PASSPORT, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NORMAL PROCEDURE. SHE THEN ALLEGEDLY SPOKE INSULTINGLY TO OFFICIAL, "TRIED TO BRIBE HIM," AND FINALLY "THREW" PASSPORT AT HIM. FEDOSEYEV EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUCH CONDUCT WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN ON PART OF U.S. OFFICIAL PERSONNEL WHILE TRAVELING IN USSR. COMMENTS WERE DELIVERED IN LOW KEY AND WERE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY NON-PAPER.

2. WE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD OF ANY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY MRS. KULSKI DURING HER TRAVELS IN USSR WHILE ON TDY WITH  
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EMBASSY. WE CHECKED WITH ONE OF HER TWO EMBASSY STAFF TRAVELING COMPANIONS (THE OTHER IS NO LONGER WITH THE EMBASSY) AND LEARNED FOLLOWING: FOR FLIGHT FROM TBILISI TO YEREVAN MRS. KULSKI DID NOT HAVE TICKET, ALTHOUGH HER TWO COMPANIONS DID. APPARENTLY BEFORE LEAVING MOSCOW SHE HAD OBTAINED RESERVATION ONLY TO TBILISI AND WAS ADVISED TO MAKE ONGOING

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS THERE. IN TBILISI THE HOTEL TRAVEL CLERK CLAIMED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HER TO TAKE DESIRED FLIGHT BECAUSE PLANE WAS FULL. ARGUMENT ENSUED, WITH HER AND EMBASSY STAFFERS REFUSING TO BE SEPARATED IN TRAVELING TO YEREVAN. EVENTUALLY TRAVEL CLERK MANAGED TO DISCOVER FREE SEAT ON PLANE AND REQUESTED MRS. KULSKI'S PASSPORT. BUT SHE HAD CHECKED PASSPORT WITH HOTEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL PROCEDURE. JUDGING BY MFA VERSION OF INCIDENT, HER EFFORT TO EXPLAIN THAT SHE DID NOT HAVE PASSPORT, BECAUSE HOTEL HAD IT, WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. IN ANY CASE, EMBASSY STAFFER WAS CERTAIN THAT MRS. KULSKI MADE NO "BRIBERY" ATTEMPT.

3. COMMENT. TO US INCIDENT SOUNDS LIKE KIND OF COMPLICATION EVERY MEMBER OF EMBASSY LEARNS TO EXPECT, AND USUALLY EXPERIENCES, WHEN TRAVELING IN USSR. IT MAY HAVE BEEN FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY LANGUAGE BARRIER. SUGGEST EUR/SOV OBTAIN DETAILS OF INCIDENT FROM MRS. KULSKI BEFORE WE RESPOND TO MFA'S ORAL DEMARCHE.  
MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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